

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-918001/P18214
Intel Corporation

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In response, Claim 6 has been amended to remove the word "Teflon" and to replace it with "polytetrafluoroethylene", the generic term. The phrase "having improved properties" has also been clarified.

Claims 4, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Shirota et al. These claims also stand rejected as being anticipated by Sunaga et al. Claims 5-12 and 15 stand rejected over Shirota et al. or, in the alternative, over Sunaga et al. In order to obviate the interpretation taken during this rejection, applicants have amended each of Claims 4, 6, 9, and 11; each of the dependent claims remaining in the case. The amendment to each of these claims emphasizes that the claimed process is applied to an already-formed material, using the language of Claim 4. All of the claims recite similar subject matter - for example, many of the other claims use the term "post formation". There is clear support for this subject matter in the specification.

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-918001/P18214
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A pellicle is a thin polymer membrane used to protect a photomask from dust. It is usually made of fluorinated polymers, the fluorination being added to increase the resistance to short range high energy radiation. However, it was found by the inventors that the fluorination is never really complete. There is always some part of the material which remains incompletely fluorinated.

The present application takes an already existing polymer sheet, or in the words of the specification and claims "post formation" and adds more fluorine after the formation to complete the fluorination. This can be done controllably, and can be done to an already formed material which is never completely fluorinated.

Each of the items of prior art defines synthesizing a new material. For example, Shirota et al. teaches a method of forming a polymer, but teaches nothing about treating an already existing polymer. Each of the disclosed techniques and disclosed examples teach forming a complete polymer material. There is no teaching or suggestion in Shirota et al. of treating a material of this type "post formation", as claimed. Similarly, Sunaga et al. teaches forming a polymer material, and admittedly teaches addition of fluorine during formation.

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-918001/P18214
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Nowhere, however, is there any teaching or suggestion of doing this "post formation", as claimed.

Therefore, nothing in the cited prior art discloses the claimed subject matter, or in the alternative teaches or suggests the claimed subject matter. As such, each of the elected claims should be allowable over the cited prior art.

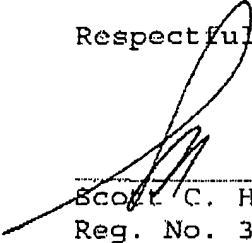
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-918001/P18214
Intel Corporation

Applicants ask that all claims be allowed. No fee is
believed to be due, however, please apply any applicable charges
or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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